
Immediate Release:
July 21, 2021

**Delta variant identified in Grand Traverse County;
GTCHD now offering all three COVID-19 vaccines at Cherryland Center location**

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) State Laboratory notified the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) of the first case of the Delta (B.1.617.2.) variant identified through routine lab surveillance of testing samples.

The Delta variant is now the dominant strain circulating in the U.S. As of Tuesday, July 20, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated that the highly transmissible variant accounted for 83% of all new cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., up from 51% just two weeks ago. The GTCHD continues to urge anyone that is unvaccinated to get vaccinated to protect themselves and others around them.

Along with the news, the GTCHD is now offering the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at its Cherryland Center location in addition to Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson (J&J) vaccines. This provides the most flexibility for those seeking COVID-19 vaccination, whether it is a first dose, second dose, or both.

The Moderna vaccine was approved for Emergency Use Authorization on December 18, 2020. Similar to the Pfizer vaccine, the Moderna vaccine uses [mRNA technology](#) which teaches cells how to make a protein or just a piece of a protein, that then triggers an immune response inside the body to fight off a virus or disease. The Moderna vaccine is authorized for those that are 18 and older and requires two doses with four weeks in between the first and second dose.

Cherryland Center location:

1700 South Garfield Ave.
Traverse City, MI 49686

Hours:

Tuesdays from 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



*No appointment is required. In the event of changes or added clinics, the QR code above will direct you to the most recent schedule.

“Receiving notification from the state laboratory of our county's first confirmed Delta variant case was just a matter of time and further emphasizes the importance of increasing the accessibility and access to the COVID-19 vaccine for our community,” said Health Officer, Wendy Hirschenberger. “It is essential for anyone who has not been vaccinated to now take action to slow the transmission and spread of the Delta variant in our community. The increased contagiousness of Delta has led to COVID-19 surges across the country, putting those unvaccinated at greater risk of contracting it.”

“While our clinics' vaccine offerings have primarily been Pfizer and J&J, making the Moderna vaccine widely available in our county is paramount to ensure the community members seeking the particular

vaccine can easily access it,” said Emergency Preparedness Director, Mike Lahey. “Offering all three vaccines is just another way we are adjusting to attempt to reach all that are seeking the vaccine, especially with Delta variant circulating.”

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